

7th November 1957]

APPENDIX

[Vide answer to starred question No. 110-A asked by Sri V. K. Kothandaraman at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 7th November 1957, page 365 supra.]

Silk Industry in the State—Development.

(a) The Central Silk Board, Bangalore, serves as a channel for the release of imported silk in the State. The State Government have no information regarding the quantity of raw silk imported. It has been ascertained from the office of the Central Silk Board at Madras that during the period from January to June, 1957 a quantity of 1,057 lb. of imported silk, valued at Rs. 36,350, has been sold in the Madras State through their office. It is presumed that all the quantity so released would have been consumed in the State. The quantity of imported silk actually used in Madras State is likely to be more, as some of the silk merchants purchase silk from Bangalore and other silk merchants to whom imported silk would have been supplied direct by the Central Silk Board.

(b) After the reorganization of States, Madras State lost her chief sericultural area in Kollegal taluk which merged with Mysore State. At present sericultural activities in the State are confined to Hosur in Salem district, Coonoor in the Nilgiris district and Talavadi in Gobichettipalayam taluk of Coimbatore district, where there are nearly 1,500 acres under mulberry owned by about 1,500 agricultural families for silkworm breeding.

In order to have an extensive acreage under mulberry for cocoon production with the ultimate object of establishing a silk factory at Hosur, the industry has been extended to the following areas where conditions are favourable for sericulture industry :—

1. Vepponapalli and Royakottah in Krishnagiri taluk, Salem district.
2. Palacode in Dharmapuri taluk, Salem district.
3. Kundah-Kottagiri in Coonoor taluk, Nilgiris district.
4. Masanagudi in Gudalur taluk, Nilgiris district.
5. Gudiyatham in North Arcot district.

It is proposed to introduce sericulture at Tenkasi in Tirunelveli district and Yercaud in Salem district. In Tenkasi the proposal is to have a Demonstration Silk Farm. The object of the scheme is to enable the poor agriculturists of that area to understand the technique of mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing so that they can practice sericulture during off-seasons.

The scheme for the establishment of a Reeling Unit at Hosur has been included under the Second Five-Year Plan and the scheme had been forwarded to the Central Silk Board for sanction of financial assistance. When the scheme is implemented the position of

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the silk industry in the State will be enhanced as the silkworm breeders will find a ready and remunerative market for their cocoons in the Reeling Unit.

In order to encourage the silk industry among the poor agriculturists, the Government grant a loan of Rs. 50 per acre under mulberry. Every acre of land newly brought under mulberry cultivation is exempted from assessment for a period of three years. Mulberry seed cuttings are also supplied free of cost to the intending cultivators. The cultivators are also supplied with mulberry manure mixture for cost price. Pump-sets are hired to the sericulturists at a nominal rate. It is proposed to establish a cross breeding grainage at Berikai with a view to supply disease-free silkworm eggs to the rearers.

In order to educate the children of sericulturists about the silk industry, a scheme for the introduction of sericulture in three elementary schools in Salem district has been sanctioned. The scheme is already under implementation in one school. Two more schools have been selected and it is proposed to implement the scheme in the two additional schools during this year.

